

this bill, Amtrak will finally be able to adjust their system of routes without fear that Congress will tie their hands. At the same time we have given preapproval for States to form interstate compacts in order to take over any routes Amtrak discontinues. We are encouraging contracting out, replacing the current Amtrak board, taking the Government out of Amtrak through the redemption of Amtrak's common stock and reforming the labor structure.

Mr. Chairman, some of my colleagues beholden to the labor unions will argue that this bill goes way too far, and I say it does not go nearly far enough. This bill does not go far enough and Amtrak is bound to turn to Congress for more help in future years. But as long as the labor unions are spending millions of dollars trying to buy Congress, as long as we continue to delude ourselves that Amtrak will ever be able to run a railroad and as long as we continue to waste our taxpayers' dollars by pouring it down this empty pit, this is the best bill we can probably pass in this House. I urge my colleagues not to water it down any more.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, although we have more time, we have no further speakers on our side. In sorrow, disappointment, and puzzlement that we will not get to a vote tonight, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALAHAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. KOLBE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2247) to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. 830, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGULATORY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 830) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes, with House amendments thereto, insist on the House amendments, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? The Chair hears none, and without objection, appoints the following conferees:

Messrs. BLILEY,

BILIRAKIS,
BARTON of Texas,
GREENWOOD,
Burr of North Carolina,
WHITFIELD,
DINGELL,
BROWN of Ohio,
WAXMAN, and
KLINK.

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO PHINEAS INDRITZ

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of sadness that I advise this House of the passing of a dear friend of this institution and of mine, Mr. Phineas Indritz, an individual known for many years as an outstanding staff member of many committees of this Congress and well known to many on Capitol Hill and the city of Washington.

Phineas Indritz died on October 15, 1997, at the age of 81 at Holy Cross Hospital following a long illness. Phineas was a graduate of the University of Chicago with A.B. and J.D. cum laude degrees, served as Assistant Solicitor and Counsel at the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1938 to 1957, except during the years of World War II, when he served with distinction in the Army Air Forces.

He then began 20 years of service on Capitol Hill as a staff member to the Government Operations Committee, first as counsel for the Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources in 1957 and then going on to other assignments.

In 1963, he became chief counsel of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Power, and at the same time, in 1969, to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources. He also served with distinction as a member of the staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and also for its Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

He has long been known for the outstanding work he has done for human rights, protection of natural resources, and for his work as teacher and scholar and educator in the area of law.

Mr. Speaker, he will be missed, and I extend my sorrow and sympathy to the members of his family who properly grieve the loss of a great man.

Some may remember the series of articles written by David Maraniss for the Washington Post about the Committee on Energy and Commerce in 1983. In one of these articles, dated July 18, 1983, was a portrait of Phineas Indritz. I would ask that a passage from this article be reprinted as follows:

There is a special desk and telephone reserved for Phineas Indritz, the gnome of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on the third floor of House Annex II, and he is received there with the respect befitting a wise old man who has worked in Congress since the birth of the youngest committee member.

That Indritz retired from government service several years ago and is not on the committee's payroll matters not at all when it comes to his standing and influence. Chairman John D. Dingell loves him like a brother, and it is fair to say that Dingell keeps him around because he needs him: Little Phineas is in many respects the social conscience of Big John.

Every few months, Indritz appears in Dingell's office with a wrong that must be righted, with evidence of an injustice inflicted by corporate America or some agency of the federal bureaucracy. "He's like a kid who comes home every day with a different stray dog or cat and plops it on our doorstep," one committee colleague said. "Sometimes we wish he wouldn't bring them home, but his heart is always in the right place. And usually the things he believes in are things that ought to be done."

All of this must be taken into account when one considers the life and times of H.R. 100. This measure, popularly known as the unisex insurance bill, has sent the insurance industry into a multimillion-dollar lobbying frenzy. It has been embraced by feminist groups as the centerpiece of their campaign for economic equity. And it has trapped Energy and Commerce members in the middle of a ferocious fight that many of them wish would be waged somewhere else.

Indritz, committee aide emeritus, dropped H.R. 100 on the doorstep. He is one of the bill's principal authors. An old civil rights activist and New Deal liberal, Indritz is blessed with talents as extraordinary as his name. For years, his amazing juggling feats with bowling pins have delighted friends and strangers in parks around Capitol Hill.

He drives through town in a fine old convertible, his head barely protruding above the steering wheel. His tweed suit pockets hold a bountiful supply of hard candy, and his scholarly mind retains more obscure facts about constitutional law and legal briefs on discrimination than can be found in the library of the Supreme Court.

It was his lifelong obsession with fighting discrimination that led Indritz several years ago to take hold of a bill prohibiting insurance companies from using race or sex in setting rates for policyholders.

Phineas will be greatly missed. We are fortunate that his legacy is so long, and continues to live with us and help us every day. He is survived by his two daughters, Tahma Metz of Bethesda and Tova Indritz of Albuquerque, NM; and a son, Dr. Doren Indritz of Phoenix, AZ; a sister; and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 34 years, Ruth Gould Indritz.

HONORING BOB L. VICE

(Mr. PACKARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished agricultural leader at the local, State, and national level who will be leaving office this year. Bob L. Vice, President of the California Farm Bureau Federation, has led the largest agricultural organization in the State of California for the past 8½ years. He has met many challenges during the time to keep a \$24 billion a year agricultural industry, the largest in the Golden State on course. California agriculture is an industry that contributes generously to the State's economy.